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Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-15 IO-13 AID-20 SY-10 SR-02 ORM-03 RSR-01 /161 W
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R 201500Z JUL 73
FM AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2059
INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMCONSUL LUANDA

C O N F I D E N T I A L LOURENCO MARQUES 0503

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS, MOPS, MZ
SUBJ: JULY 19 MILITARY BRIEFING FOR CONSULAR CORPS

REF: A) LOURENCO MARQUES 427; B) LOURENCO MARQUES 447; C)
LOURENCO MARQUES 495

1. FOLLOWING ARE MAIN POINTS AND STATISTICS OF JULY 19 BRIEFING FOR CONSULAR CORPS BY MOZAMBIQUE ARMED FORCES HIGH COMMAND SPOKESMAN, COL. JACINTO FRADE. ROUGH NOTES BEING POUCHED.

2. LATEST BRIEFING COVERED RELATIVELY SHORT PERIOD, JUNE 28 THROUGH JULY 18 AND LEVEL OF ACTIVITY THUS CORRESPONDINGLY LOW, WITH SHARP DOWN TURN IN NUMBER OF MINES PLANTED BY FRELIMO PERHAPS REFLECTING SUPPLY DIFFICULTIES OVER WIDER AREA OF ACTIVITY OR CHANGE IN TACTICS.

3. NIASSA DISTRICT CONTINUES QUIET. IN CABO DELGADO, SLIGHT INTENSIFICATION OF FRELIMO ACTIVITY DUE TO TRANSFER OF TROOPS TO TETE. TETE REMAINS TROUBLESOME AS USUAL. DEFINITE UP-SWING IN ACTION IN BEIRA/VILA PERY DISTRICTS, MOST SENSATIONAL DEVELOPMENT BEING EXTENSION OF FRELIMO ACTIVITY TO GORONGOSA GAME PARK AREA WITH ATTACK ON AIR TAXI PLANE AND SHOTS FIRED
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AT MAIN TOURIST CAMP REPORTED REFS B AND C. LATTER IS

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SIGNIFICANT PSYCHOLOGICAL GAIN FOR FRELIMO AND COULD AFFECT MILITARY PICTURE BY FORCING PORTUGUESE TO EXPEND TROOPS IN AN AREA HITHERTO INACTIVE. IT ALSO INCREASES POSSIBILITY OF ATTACKS ON BEIRA-VILA PERY ROAD, AND CONSEQUENT DISRUPTION OF TRAFFIC ON MAIN EAST-WEST ARTERY.

4. BRIEFING WAS IN NATURE OF SWAN SONG AS COL FRADE EXPECTS LEAVE SOON AFTER COMMANDING GENERAL DE ARRIAGA'S DEPARTURE, AND COULD GIVE NO ASSURANCE THAT THE NEW COMMANDER IN CHIEF WOULD CONTINUE THE CONSULAR BRIEFING PROGRAM.

5. STATISTS

PORTUGUESE OPERATIONS: 512 (812 DURING PREVIOUS PERIOD REF A) INCULDING 73 (101) IN NIASSA, 106 (173) IN CABO DELGADO, 218 (362) IN TETE, AND 115 (129) IN NORTHERN BEIRA/VILA PERY.

FRELIMO CASUALTIES: KILLED 96 (85); WOUNDED 34 (66); CAPTURED 11 (10).

REFUGES DESTROYED: 39 (28)

POPULATION TAKEN: CAPTURED 7 (610); SURRENDERED 735 (12,541); LIBERATED 35 (165)

FRELIMO ACTIONS: 145 (511) INCLUDING:

MINES PLANTED: 45 (244) OF WHICH 14 (58) EXPLODED AND 31 (186) WERE DISARMED.

SHOOTINGS AND ATTACKS: 78 (187) OF WHICH 25 (52) AGAINST CIVILIANS, AND 53 (135) AGAINST TROOPS.

BOOBY TRAPS: 6 (38) ALL OF WHICH WERE DISARMED

PORTUGUESE CASUALTIES:

MILITARY: KILLED 9 (27); WOUNDED 57 (194)

CIVILIANS: KILLED 26 (34); WOUNDED 51 (90); KIDNAPPED 138 (83); MISSING NONE (5).

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